

Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 11, as follows:

As noted earlier above, the reticle-support member of the reticle manipulator 50 can have any of various configurations, but a fork-shaped configuration is especially desired for ease of use, reduced mass, and other factors. FIGS. 4(A)-4(C) depicts details of an exemplary reticle-support member configured as a U-shaped fork 1. The fork 1 comprises a trunk portion 3 from which two tines 5 extend parallel to each other and coplanarly with the trunk portion 3. Thus, the tines 5 are symmetrically arranged along a center line of the length dimension of the trunk portion 3. In FIG. 4(A) the distance (in the Y-direction of the figure) across the respective outsides of the tines 5 is narrower than the distance (in the Y-direction in the figure) between the two right-hand reticle-holding pins 61. As a result, the tines 5 can be inserted between these right-hand reticle-holding pins 61, as shown in FIG. 2(A). In this embodiment, the tines 5 are configured to allow placement of the vacuum ports 11 equidistantly and equi-angularly from one another. (As shown, the vacuum ports 11 are spaced apart by the angle α , which places them equidistant from one another.) The proximal end of the trunk portion 3 of the fork 1 defines attachment holes 7 used for attaching, using machine screws or analogous fasteners, to a pivot bearing (not detailed but well understood in the art) in the distal end of the second arm 57 (FIG. 2(A)). Thus, whenever the pivot bearing rotates (pivots) relative to the second arm 57, the fork 1 is correspondingly pivoted relative to the distal end of the second arm 57.